

LEICESTERSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
26 MAY 2022

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2022 - PROGRESS
UPDATE AND PRE-CONSULTATION DRAFT

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) with an update on work undertaken to produce the draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022 and to seek the Board's approval to consult on the draft document.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:
 - a. Notes the work undertaken to produce the draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022, which has been developed in line with the findings of public and pharmacy surveys;
 - b. Approves the draft PNA for consultation;
 - c. Notes that a further report will be considered by the Board at its meeting in September 2022 detailing the outcome of the consultation and seeking approval of the final PNA.

Policy Framework and Previous Decision

3. The HWB has a statutory responsibility to prepare a PNA for Leicestershire and publish it by 1 October 2022. At its meeting on 24 February 2022, the Health and Wellbeing Board noted the timescales and process for the production of the PNA, along with areas of focus, likely structure, governance and consultation arrangements to inform the draft.
4. The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 (amended) sets out the minimum information that must be contained within a PNA and outlines the process that must be followed in its development and can be found at:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/349/contents>

Background

5. The purpose of the PNA is to:
 - identify the pharmaceutical services currently available and assess the need for pharmaceutical services in the future;

- inform the planning and commissioning of pharmacy services by identifying which services should be commissioned for local people, within available resources, and where these services should be;
 - inform decision making in response to applications made to NHS England by pharmacists and dispensing doctors to provide a new pharmacy. The organisation that will make these decisions is NHS England.
6. The last PNA for Leicestershire was produced in 2018 and can be accessed at: <http://www.lsr-online.org/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment.html>.
 7. The PNA is a statutory document that is used by NHS England to agree changes to the commissioning of local pharmaceutical services. As such, if NHS England receives a legal challenge to the services they commission based on the PNA, the local authority could also be part of that legal challenge. It is essential that the process that is followed meets the legislation that is set out and that the PNA is a robust document.
 8. In October 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care published a pharmaceutical needs assessment information pack for local authority health and wellbeing boards to support in the developing and updating of PNAs. The PNA guidance can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pharmaceutical-needs-assessments-information-pack>
 9. A PNA Reference Group has been established to oversee the detailed production of the PNA documents for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to ensure a consistent local approach. Membership of this group includes: local authorities, NHS England, the Leicestershire Pharmaceutical Committee, Local Professional Network for Pharmacists and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Medical Committee, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Healthwatch. Although there is a common approach, there will be separate PNAs for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
 10. The principal resourcing for the development of the Leicestershire PNA is provided by the Leicestershire County Council Business Intelligence Service, with information and advice provided through the PNA Project Team by NHS England, the Leicestershire Pharmaceutical Committee, CCGs and others.

Content

11. The regulations and guidance documents provide information on the PNA content. This has been reflected in the draft PNA appended as Appendix A. Although a similar approach to that taken in the 2018 PNA has been used when developing the PNA content, more innovative ways will be used to present and visualise the 2022 PNA data which will also be regularly updated.

12. Since the last PNA the Government's policy document of "Community pharmacy in 2016/17 and beyond" has been implemented. The impact of these changes and an assessment of the new and emergent system has been examined to understand the implications for the PNA 2022.

Progress to Date

13. The PNA Reference Group considered pre-consultation drafts of the Leicestershire and Rutland PNAs at its meeting on 26 April 2022. The document followed a similar format to the 2018 version which met statutory requirements. The views of the Reference Group have now been incorporated into the draft Leicestershire document attached at Appendix A. This draft includes analysis and presentation of available data and also the headline results from a survey of local pharmacies. In light of the relatively low response rate (67 responses) the survey will be re-opened, and the findings will be incorporated into the final Strategy. The Appendices to the PNA form a lengthy addition to the report and hence have been included for reference in the link attached - <https://www.lsr-online.org/pna-for-2022.html>.

Consultation/Patient and Public Involvement

14. To gather additional intelligence for the development of the draft PNA, two surveys ran throughout the spring. One survey asked service users for their views on the current pharmaceutical provision and the second gathered data on services provided, opening times etc from pharmaceutical professionals. The findings from these two survey exercises have been incorporated into the initial draft PNA document.
15. The PNA is subject to a 60-day statutory consultation period which, subject to approval, will commence in June 2022. The Pharmaceutical Services Regulations specify that the Health and Wellbeing Board must consult with the following: -
- the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC)
 - the Local Medical Committee
 - any persons on the pharmaceutical lists and any dispensing doctors list for its area
 - any LPS chemist in its area with whom NHS England has made arrangements for the provision of any local pharmaceutical services
 - Healthwatch, and any other patient, consumer or community group in its area which in the view of the Health and Wellbeing Board has an interest in the provision of pharmaceutical services in its area;
 - any NHS trust or NHS foundation trust in its area
 - NHS England
 - any neighbouring HWB.
16. Health and Wellbeing Boards must consult the above at least once during the process of developing the PNA. Those being consulted can be directed to a website address containing the draft PNA but can, if they request, be sent an electronic or hard copy version.

17. The Reference Group is working with the County Council's Consultation Manager to design an effective consultation process. The draft PNA will be published on the Leicestershire County Council website and the views of the statutory consultees and other stakeholders will be actively sought. An easy read version of the PNA will be developed.

Resource Implications

18. Pharmacy Services are core funded through NHS England budgets, but also commissioned for extra services from a range of sources. Any changes in services and provision will impact on those particular budgets. The PNA has been developed within existing business intelligence and public health budgets, including the consultation arrangements.

Timetable for Decisions

19. Appendix B sets out the project timescales. The project plan is tight with respect to delivering an approved PNA by 1 October 2022. The PNA Project Team will monitor this and report any issues of concern to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The current timescales are:
- 26 May - pre-consultation draft PNA submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval to consult
 - June – July – formal 60-day consultation undertaken
 - 22 September – final PNA submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval
 - 1 October 2022 – Publication of the PNA

Background Papers

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Guidance and Regulations
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pharmaceutical-needs-assessments-information-pack>

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None

Appendices

Appendix A – Pre-Consultation Draft of Leicestershire PNA
 Appendix B - PNA Preparation Timeline
 Appendix C – PNA Appendices - <https://www.lsr-online.org/pna-for-2022.html>

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Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

The PNA will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. The consultation process has sought to obtain and analyse views from the wide range of equalities groups.

Partnership Working and associated issues

The PNA has been produced in partnership with a range of partner agencies who have an interest in continued effective and efficient delivery of pharmacy services in the county and related services.

Risk Assessment

The assessment looks at a wide range of factors related to the adequacy of current pharmacy services in the County and the implications and risks that would arise with inadequate provision.

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